

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is requested.

Current Office Action Is Incomplete

Applicants submit the current Office Action is incomplete. The Examiner asserts that:

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims filed on 10/11/06 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

(Action at page 6, lines 12-13).

However, in item 3 of the current Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 12-15 and 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hum et al. (U.S.P. 6,714,133) substantially using the same assertions as set forth in a previous Office Action mailed November 11, 2005 (Previous Office Action at pages 3-4).

In response to Applicants' arguments traversing the rejection of claims 12-15 and 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) filed in a previous Amendment of February 1, 2006, the Examiner subsequently, in a previous Office Action mailed July 11, 2006, found claims 12-15 and 24-27 allowable.

While the Examiner certainly can reexamine previous assertions and art and subsequently withdraw subject matter previously found allowable, such actions require explanation. As set forth in MPEP §707.07(f) entitled Answer All Material Traversed:

an examiner must provide clear explanations of all actions taken by the Examiner during prosecution of an application.

That is, the Examiner has not provided a response to the Applicant's previous arguments regarding the features of claims 12-15 and 24-29 that patentably distinguish over the cited art.

Summary

Accordingly, Applicants submit that if claims 12-15 and 24-29 are not found allowable, then a new non-final Office Action should be issued including a complete explanation of the Examiners assertions, and the response date accordingly reset.

Item 3: Rejection of claims 12-15 and 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In item 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 12-15 and 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hum et al. (U.S.P. 6,714,133). The rejection is traversed.

Independent claim 12, for example, recites an input system including "an information generation part generating input information based on a given input operation; a transmission part generating a signal by having a carrier frequency modulated with the input information, and transmitting the generated signal; a plurality of wave direction parts provided close to said

transmission part so as to provide the signal transmitted from said transmission part with directivity; and a reception part receiving the transmitted signal through each of the wave direction parts and demodulating the received signals into the same input information, wherein the signal transmitted at a timing from the transmission part is provided alternatively to the wave direction parts so that the same input information is transmitted alternately through the wave direction parts." Independent claim 24 has a similar recitation.

Hume does not teach, using claim 12 as an example, a signal transmitted at a timing from the transmission part is provided alternately to the wave direction parts so that the same input information is transmitted alternately through the wave direction parts.

That is, as illustrated, for example in FIG. 8, multiple signals are output from antenna (waveguide parts) 29 and 30, but at a point of generation in the transmission circuit 211, there is one signal generated in and transmitted from the transmission circuit 211.

By contrast, Hum teaches (see, for example, col. 5, lines 30-35):

Consequently, when the coupling port 16a broadcasts the interrogation signal 17a one of the components of the signal will be intended for transponder 18a. The signal will cause the transponder to initialize and send an identification signal or ID code and/or data back to the interrogator through the coupling port 16a and communication line 14a. The other coupling ports will simultaneously broadcast or transmit in an arbitrary pattern the same component of the interrogation signal 17a.

That is, Hum merely teaches an interrogation signal to be transmitted to one of the transponders 18a through 18n at one timing is considered to be transmitted simultaneously to the ports 16a through 16n.

The Examiner asserts, Hum's teaching regarding wave signals of 17a-17c, fig. 1 teaches the recited features "wherein the signal transmitted at a timing from the transmission part is provided alternatively to the wave direction parts so that the same input information is transmitted alternately through the wave direction." (Action at page 2, lines 22-24). Applicants respectfully submit, that as pointed out in the Amendment filed February 1, 2006, the Examiner's interpretation of Hum is incorrect.

Summary

Since features recited by independent claims 12 and 24 (and respective dependent claims 13-15 and 25-27) are not taught by the cited art, the rejection should be withdrawn and claims 12-15 and 23-27 allowed.

Item 5: Rejection of claims 1-11, 16-23, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hum in view of Leyh et al. (US 6,957,081)

In item 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-11, 16-23 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hum in view of Leyh et al. (U.S.P. 6,957,081). The rejection is traversed.

Prima Facie Obviousness Not Established Since Hum Does Not Teach All Recited Features And Leyh Is Unavailable As A Reference In Support of The Rejection

Independent claim 1, for example, recites an input system including "an information generation part generating input information based on a given input operation; a transmission part substantially simultaneously transmitting a first signal and a second signal generated by having a plurality of different carrier frequencies modulated with the same input information (emphasis added)." Independent claim 16 has a similar recitation. Independent claim 30 recites a device including "a transmission part substantially simultaneously transmitting the same input information by a plurality of carrier frequencies."

The Action concedes that Hum does not teach simultaneously transmitting a first signal and a second signal with the same input. (Action at page 14, lines 10-11).

In support of the rejection, the Examiner asserts:

It would have been obvious ... to implement the transmitting system having a first and a second signals are transmitted simultaneously from the same antenna as taught by Leyh et al. into the information generation part generating input information based on a given input operation of Hum et al. for producing the claimed invention because this would provide the continuous reception mode receiver receives an uncompressed downlink signal at the same time the other the other receives a signal (see abstract)

(Emphasis added, Action at page 4, lines 16-21).

Applicants point out, however, that Leyh has a filing date of December 21, 2001 which is after the filing date of April 20, 2001 of the present application.

Accordingly, Leyh is not available as a reference in support of the rejection and in establishing *prima facie* obviousness.

Applicants also point out to the Examiner, to facilitate the Examiner's further search, that the present application has a foreign priority date, if perfected, based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-346346994 of November 14, 2000.

Summary

Since features recited by claims 1-11, 16-23 and 30 are not taught by the art available to the Examiner in support of the rejection, *prima facie* obviousness is not established, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

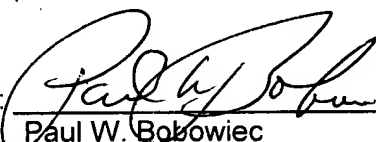
Respectfully submitted,

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